Association pleading for tax exemptions both on inputs and finished products;

(b) if so, whether government would consider slashing import duties on aroma material used in the industry; and

(c) whether government would also consider allotment of land on long lease to grow forest based raw material for agarbathi industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Government have considered a representation dated 15.2.1993 from this Association There is, at present, no Central Excise duty on the finished product, Agarbathi.

(b) The import duty on chemicals including aromatic chemicals used in the industry has been reduced from 110 per cent to 85 per cent in this year's Budget. 'Jigat', an input for the agarbathi industry attracts a concessional import duty of 40 per cent.

(c) No proposal has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for forest clearance for allotment of land on long lease to grow-forest based raw material for agarbathi industry.

Launching of SFAC

4010. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation mooted in the Finance Minister's budget speech last year;

(b) what are the policies and programmes envisaged in the Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the delay in launching Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation there is a loss in terms of potential employment nutrition and quality of life;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in launching Small Farmers Agro-business Corporation; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to launch SFAC and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (e) Planning Commission has done the preparatory work to set up the Small Farmers' Agro-Business Consortium (SFAC). A Steering Committee has been set up by them to work out an action plan and the details of the organisational structure including the Articles of Association of the Small Farmers' Agro-Business Consortium. The main purpose of SFAC is to achieve the twin objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan, namely, employment generation diversification of agriculture and agro-based industries to attain self-sufficiency in food production and generate surplus for exports. The SFAC shall have three tier structure namely, Advisory Council at Apex Level, Governing Board consisting of banks, Government Corporations, private industries, scientific community and farmers and users Associations at the second tier and a third tier consisting of State/Project Level Organisations comprising farmers/beneficiaries user organisations. SFAC is proposed to be set up as a society under the Societies Registration Act.

Cases against Jagatjit Industries Limited

4011. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the industrial houses are indulging in wilful evasion of various Government taxes, thus affecting adversely the revenue collection;

(b) if so, what is the number of cases under Income Tax, Customs and